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SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 1/18/11

BILL NO. SB 90

January 18, 2011

TO: Members of the Senate Fish and Game Committee
From: Roxanne Lincoln, AARP Montana volunteer advocate
Re: Support of SB 90

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record I am Roxanne Lincoln, a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana, an organization with over 155,000 members in this state. AARP believes no one of any age should go hungry. Hunger among older Americans is a huge problem, but one that, if we all work together, is solvable. SB 90 is a good way to address the costs of processing donated meat to food banks in Montana.

A study conducted in 2008 showed that between 2006-2008, the percentage and number of poor and near-poor elderly struggling with hunger or lacking sufficient nutrition and food resources more than doubled – from 4.7% to 10.1% nationally. Currently, Montana food banks depend upon hunters paying the processing fee for any donated game, a significant cost for the hunter which likely discourages donations. In 2010, Montana hunters donated 1,450lbs of game resulting in 5,800 meals respectively. However, our neighbor Idaho produced 3,000 lbs of game resulting in 12,000 meals. Montana has an abundant of wildlife which can help many the 280,000 citizens needing food assistance last year. Wild game is very nutritious and is an excellent way for citizens to help their community. SB 90 would help provide the necessary funds to pay the processing fee, allowing for more hunters to donate food to food banks across Montana.

Montana food banks are always in need of meat. SB 90 will help ensure that every Montanan has a healthy meal, including raised in Montana game meat. We urge you to support SB 90.